IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-04301

PM00022D

Inventor(s):

Venuka K. Jayatilaka Matthew D. Buchanan

Ruediger Held

Title: FORMING A SUBSTANTIALLY

PLANAR UPPER SURFACE AT THE

OUTER EDGE OF A SEMICONDUCTOR

TOPOGRAPHY

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

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Pamela Gerik

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The captioned application is a divisional application from prior application 09/768,873 filed January 23, 2001 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Prior to initial examination of the captioned matter, please amend the case as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.